river are approximately as follows: 2000 feet, about 24 miles above Grand; 1500 feet, midway between Taloga and Thomas, 1000 feet, four miles above Union; 500 feet, 35 miles below Garner.—*F. O. S.*

Depth and width of the Canadian River during the flood of October 1-4, 1904.

[Stations are arranged in order from above toward the mouth.]

Stations.	Distance from preceding place.	Greatest depth.	Average width at highest stage.	Width before flood.
	Miles.	*Feet.*	*Miles.*	
Grand, Okla.		15	1¾	¼ mile.
Stone, Okla.	33	12	2	Dry.
Taloga, Okla.	41	*	¼ to 2	
Thomas, Okla.	29	12	1	30 feet.
Ethel, Okla.	8	†	1	50 yards.
Thompson, Okla.	10	19½	1½	60 yards.
Bridgeport, Okla.	6	18	1⅛	125 yards.
Niles, Okla.	17	18	1⅛	50 feet.
Union, Okla.	15	18	4	60 yards.
Mustang, Okla.	13	30	1	500 feet.
Noble, Okla.	30	20	1½ to 2	400 to 800 feet.
Purcell, Ind. T.	11	12	1	½ mile.
Lexington, Okla.	1	15	1	½ mile.
Pecan, Okla.	11	‡	1¼	¼ mile.
Buckhead, Okla.	2	12 to 15	2½	
Lakeview, Okla.	4	10	2	60 yards.
Corner, Okla.	24	30	1	40 yards.
Tyrola, Ind. T.	9	20	⅛	100 yards.
Francis, Ind. T.	9	20	⅔	½ mile.
Calvin, Ind. T.	30	20	¾	¼ mile.
Garner, Ind. T.	32	§	1	

*12-foot rise. †4½-foot rise. ‡5½ feet higher than ever known before. §3-foot rise.

A PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL CONTEST OF WEATHER FORECASTERS.

We think that all sensible men will agree with the sentiments expressed in the following letter.—*C. A.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 7, 1905.*

MR. FERNAND JACOBS,
President, Société d'Astronomie, Brussels, Belgium.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th of December, informing me that the Belgian Society of Astronomy has decided to organize an international contest of weather forecasters, to be held at Liege, September, 1905, during the session of a congress of meteorologists, and you further invite me to become one of the judges in that contest. If your action in the matter had not extended beyond this invitation, I should have simply declined it. But you have sent me a printed circular, stating in detail the terms under which the competition is to be carried out, and mentioning the individual names of those composing your jury, among which you have included my own name without my authority. I desire to protest against this action in the most emphatic manner possible, and shall communicate my protest to all of those distinguished gentlemen whom you have made my colleagues. It is not impossible that you have also printed their names without their personal permission, and that many of them will agree with me in my opinion of your action and of the inexpediency of any such public competition for prizes in forecasting.

It is probably not unknown to you that in America, as in Europe, there are numerous persons who derive profit from the sale of almanacs and newspaper forecasts, to the great disgrace of meteorology. This class of men, even though they fail to win the offered prize, will draw great profit from such a public competition and official scientific recognition; I protest against allowing them any chance of receiving such favorable public recognition at the hands of scientific men.

Meteorological science, and especially the art of forecasting, can not be furthered by such public tests and competitions as those you would encourage, and you must not expect me to serve as a member of your jury. Up to the present time the official forecasts published by European and American nations have been based on the daily weather maps, and made in accordance with all the knowledge that is embodied in what we call the science of meteorology. This knowledge is public property; the methods of forecasting have frequently been explained. Forecast students are accepted in every government office and encouraged to become thoroughly acquainted with the methods used therein. A competitive examination between such students seeking an appointment to office or a promotion would be eminently proper, but there is apparently no occasion to institute such a competition at Liege.

The phraseology of the forecasts differs in diffent countries in accordance with the needs of the people, and some attempt much more detailed forecasts than others. In no case, so far as I know, do the forecasts extend more than two days in advance, except for the seasonal forecasts in India. All such work is a legitimate application of science, and the whole meteorogical world is cooperating in efforts to improve it. It is not advisable to set these scientific men and government officials into public competition or rivalry with one another. Who would think of doing this in the matter of astronomical ephemerides or predictions of the places of the sun, moon, or planets?

The last article of your projet provides that amateurs may compete for the prize for long-range forecasts of the details of the weather during the month of September, 1905. But there is no rational or scientific basis for such long-range forecasts, and therefore the planetary astrologers or any one who guesses what September will be may come into the competition and receive a diploma of merit if by accident he makes a partially satisfactory forecast for the month. But such a single success can have no weight whatever in establishing the merit of any system. As before said, the competition itself can have no value to the scientific world, but will be taken advantage of by the popular charlatans and imposters of Europe and America.

Your proposed competition is directly contrary to the expressed opinion of some of the best European meteorologists, and I may especially refer you to the accompanying letter of Prof. J. N. Pernter, reprinted from the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for May, 1904. You may be interested also in reading the enclosed pages from the advance proof of my Annual Report, in which I have referred to long-range forecasts.

Regretting that I can not encourage your public competition, but with the best wishes for the prosperity of the Belgian Astromical Society, I am,

Very respectfully,
(Signed) WILLIS L. MOORE,
Chief U. S. Weather Bureau.

CORRIGENDA.

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for August, 1904, p. 372, column 2, line 10, "involve" read "evolve."

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for October, 1904, p. 458, column 2, Table 1, number of days with thunderstorms in May, 1895, for "6" read "5"; p. 459, column 1, Table 4, average duration of thunderstorms in November, 1890, for "...." read "0"; p. 465, column 1, line 11, for "Helmholz" read "Helmholtz," line 16, for "Neuchoff" read "Neuhoff," line 18, for "Eckholm" read "Ekholm."

THE WEATHER OF THE MONTH.

By Mr. WM. B. STOCKMAN, Chief, Division of Meteorological Records.

PRESSURE.

The distribution of mean atmospheric pressure is graphically shown on Chart VIII and the average values and departures from normal are shown in Tables I and VI.

The mean barometer was highest over the Plateau regions, with the crest over western Wyoming. It was lowest over eastern New England.

The mean barometer was above the normal in the west Gulf States, the Mississippi and Missouri valleys, slope and Plateau regions, the south Pacific region, except the extreme southwestern portion, and the middle Pacific region, except the extreme northwestern portion. In all other districts it was below the normal.

The greatest positive departures from the normal ranged from + .10 to + .18 inch, and occurred in the middle and southern Plateau regions. The greatest negative departures ranged from — .10 to — .15 inch, and occurred over New England, and the extreme eastern portion of New York.

The mean pressure decreased from that of October, 1904, in New England, Middle Atlantic States, northern portion of the South Atlantic States, Ohio Valley and Tennessee, except the western portion, the Lake region, and the north Pacific district. In all the remaining districts it increased.

The maximum increase ranged from + .10 to + .16 inch, and occurred over the middle and southern slope and Plateau regions, the southern portion of the northern slope region, and southwestern North Dakota. The maximum decrease ranged from —.10 to —.17 inch, and occurred over New England, and the northeastern portion of the Middle Atlantic States.